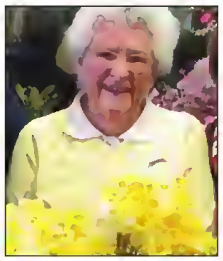
The Niagara Advance
www.niagaraadvance.ca
Thursday, March 18, 2010



Symbol of Hope
raises funds for Cancer Society
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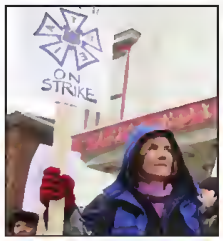

Shaw labour dispute
Effect on season depends on how long it lasts
3

Time to start thinking about gardening

get it online
www.niagaraadvance.ca

Celebrating everything Irish

The Taylor Academy of Irish Dancers, hosted by Maureen and Paul Dickson of Irish Design, celebrate St. Patrick's Day, an annual treat for those who gather on Queen Street.

Shaw must go on

Shaw Festival invites Niagara residents to previews at special prices as a thank you for support.

Matt Day
Niagara Advance

Despite recent news about the Shaw Festival labour dispute—talks were expected to resume today—and picketers at theatre locations, Shaw management wants to remind Niagara residents the show must—and will—go on.

This week marked the beginning of the festival's Niagara Neighbours Spring Celebration, an invitation for Niagara residents to catch a glimpse of selected shows at discounted prices.

Beginning April 6 and running until May 7, shows such as Oscar Wilde's An Ideal Husband, Mary Chase's humour-filled Harvey and the gentle comedy of Chekhov's The Cherry Orchard will be offered at the discounted price of $35. Tickets for students are available at $20.

See Page 3

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Town considering $2 taxi subsidy for seniors, students

Instead of subsidizing community shuttle service, the town is looking at providing chits to help pay for taxi fares.

Penny Coles
Niagara Advance

Jean Maxim, a resident of the Davy Street seniors apartments, uses the current community shuttle service almost every day.

It costs her $4 to go to the bank, to shop on Queen Street or eat at the Stagecoach, where she meets her friends. Under the town's proposal, a one-way trip will cost her $12.

"I can't afford to do that. I don't know what I'll do. I just won't get out as often," she says.

"My friends will miss me, and I'll miss them."

After a rushed discussion late last Monday following an extensive budget debate, councillors endorsed a plan to help seniors and students with their transportation needs, but it won't be the community shuttle residents have enjoyed for the past two years.

At the public works committee meeting, councillors approved a chit system that would give seniors and students $2 off each taxi trip they take in town, for regular cab or para-transit rides. The program can be used with any cab licensed to operate in town.

The policy discussion was a result of an announcement by Niagara Classic Cabs that they would be discontinuing their community shuttle service at the end of March.

The town, corporate sponsors and community service organizations have been subsidizing the service, the town at a cost of $10,000 a year.

David Mole of Niagara Classic Cabs had hoped to expand the service with town support, including taking local residents to St. Catharines and Niagara Falls when necessary, but said he couldn't continue with the status quo, which was all the town would consider.

The report the public works committee has endorsed recommends the town provide coupons worth $2 to seniors and students. The town contribution will be capped at $10,000, or a total of 5,000 coupons. A book of 20 coupons could be purchased for $20. The cab driver can accept only one coupon each way, and will be reimbursed by the town.

Cabs licensed to operate in NOTL and the region start the metre at $3.50, plus 25 cents per 110 metres, and a waiting time of $24.50 per hour.

Mole says residents from St. Davids or Queenston will be looking at a cab fare of up to $50 round trip to a doctor's appointment in the Old Town, with just $2 off each way.

That's nothing like the scope of the sponsorship residents have come to rely on, he said.

He questions why councillors say transportation is a priority—and that's certainly the message he hears from those who have regularly used his family's service—but yet the town is willing to spend much more on items that seem less of a priority.

"I don't think it (the $10,000 cap) is indicative of how much of a priority this issue is."

He feels it would be more helpful to those who use the service for the town to at least set up zones, which could allow riders to use more than one coupon when travelling from St. Davids, Queenston or the rural Virgil area.

A registration form will be available from the town for riders and will require documentation, such as a senior's card, student card, or Niagara Specialized Transit ID.

Council will need to ratify the recommendation at next Monday's council meeting.

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MATT DAY Niagara Advance

Ramona Crawford, a cutter at the Shaw Festival, works on a dress for An Ideal Husband, by Oscar Wilde, which is scheduled to open for previews April 9 at the Festival Theatre and runs until Oct. 31.

Work goes on with hope that talks resume—possibly today

From Page 1

"This is a thank you to our Niagara area residents who often serve as ambassadors of the Shaw when they see a show and begin talking about it with friends and family. We want to get them in early, so we offered this promotion again," said Shaw public relations director Odette Yazbeck.

She said she recognizes the lock-out and strike action that has been going on for the last week, with workers parading outside the theatre, may have people questioning the start of the season. It's important for people to know that inside work is going on as "normal as possible.

"It's a tough time for everybody. Rehearsals are continuing and people in the props and costume departments are eager to get on with the show."

Both sides were expected to be back at the bargaining table today.

Yazbeck said management is working through all of the what-if scenarios that may occur as a result of the contract dispute. If the labour action continues for a substantial amount of time, it will "certainly affect the season," she says.

"This is a great theatre company, always has been and always will be. I'm confident we will be able to come to terms shortly."

Early booking is advised – the first phase of Niagara Neighbours Spring Celebration is available only until March 28. You can book online at www.shawfest.com or by calling 905-468-2172.

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Candidates interested in applying are requested to submit a resume and letter stating the reason why they wish to serve. Please direct correspondence to Mrs. Debbie Sevenpifer, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, President and Chief Executive Officer, c/o 155 Ontario Street, St. Catharines, ON, L2R 5K3.

The deadline for applications is Friday April 9th, 2010.

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Symbol of hope raises funds for cancer society

Annual daffodil sale is being organized by women of local sorority.

Once again it's time to think spring, daffodils and the Canadian Cancer Society's annual fundraising sale.

Locally, the daffodil sale is again being spearheaded by the women of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi to allow Canadian Cancer Society volunteers to concentrate on canvassing for the annual April campaign.

The bright yellow daffodils have come to symbolize hope and faith that cancer can be beaten, and that door-to-door canvassing is just around the corner.

Daffodils, both fresh and silk, will be sold through pre-arranged orders, $7 for one bunch or $12 for two, or $1 each for silk daffodils.

The orders can be picked up at Van Noort Florists on Four Mile Creek Road in Virgil Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To order flowers for pick-up, call Vera Derbyshire at 905-468-3136.

Cut daffodils will also be sold by local Canadian Cancer Society volunteers that same Saturday at both Valu-marts in town.

Sharon VanNoort, Barbara McCarthy, Vera Derbyshire, Jackie Boyce and Joan Allen prepare for the annual daffodil sale, with the help of VanNoort Florists.

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14719 Niagara River Parkway $1,749,000

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This 2-bedroom bungalow opens to a back deck and large, landscaped lot. Open kitchen overlooking the great room. Master bedroom with en suite privilege. Powder room. Large dining room. Spacious, unfinished lower level would make an excellent rec room.

24 Shakespeare Ave. $292,000

Contemporary Bungalow

This open concept bungalow sits in a tranquil enclave of upscale homes. Multiple French doors; vaulted ceilings; Italian hardwood and ceramics; 2-sided fireplace; outdoor 'living room.' Master bedroom with en suite bath, jacuzzi + shower, walk-in closet.

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opinion page

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TIM DUNDAS, Publisher 905-357-2440 ext. 304
tdundas@niagaracommunitynewspapers.com

PENNY COLES, 905-468-3283 ext. 103
editor@niagaraadvance.com

MYRA ROBERTSON, Sales Manager 905-871-3100 ext. 202
mrobertson@forterietimes.com

our editorial

Transit solution better than nothing, but not by much

Transportation around town has been identified as a priority by many residents, and it is easy to understand why.

We have a large population of seniors, some of whom no longer drive and others who are concerned for the future when they may have to give up driving. Imagine the frustration of having to rely on others to get to the grocery store, the bank, medical appointments or just to get out to see your friends. This is a town rich with seniors, but without public transportation it is not serving those seniors well.

At the other end of the spectrum, we have our teens who are too young to drive or don't have cars, but would like part-time work. And we have hotels, restaurants and stores who depend on young people to supply a portion of their work force. But without public transportation, no way to connect the two.

Niagara Classic Cabs has for two years supplied a service that by all accounts from those who use it served the community well. The family business, however, has been in a difficult position, offering subsidized rides on what the town has considered a trial basis, not knowing what the future would bring.

For the residents who depended on that service, we now know the future of public transportation in Niagara-on-the-Lake does not include Niagara Classic Cabs and the Mole family who run it, at least not this year. That service will be discontinued at the end of the month, when the town takes over by providing a $2 subsidy for regular cab fares.

It appears the stumbling block has been all about timing. Niagara Classic Cabs wanted to expand, to purchase more vehicles and provide affordable transportation for residents not only within town but connecting with the rest of the region. The town has decided instead to invest in a traffic study to determine what residents want and need.

The answer to that seems obvious. There is no need to spend $50,000 to determine that residents want Niagara Classic Cabs to continue providing reliable and affordable transportation.

But that is not to be. The town is not ready to commit, and the family business is not willing to wait.

Lord Mayor Gary Burroughs has said and continues to say he hoped the community shuttle would be part of the transportation solution for NOTL. But since that has not worked out, he says, the town has had to find an interim solution quickly to fill the void for the 100 or so regular users, many of whom still hold tickets they have purchased. The current proposed $2 solution is not perfect, he says, but it is what they could come up with for now. It may change in the future—in fact he hopes there is a better answer to residents' needs, something that more closely resembles a community shuttle, he says.

We hope so too.

What the town is planning to institute, if council agrees Monday, may be better than nothing, but not by much.

The proposal is simply not affordable to most residents. Saving $2 of a fare that could be up to $25 one way is not terribly helpful, whether it's to town for a doctor's appointment or to work at a minimum wage job. The town had a good partner with the Mole family. It's a shame that had to end.

Our Heritage

Photo courtesy of the Niagara Historical Museum

Last week's Niagara Historical Museum photograph showed the 1906 Fire Department beside the Court House. This week's photo shows the 1953 version of the fire department, outside the 1922 Fire Hall on Queen Street, the one that burned down last October. The Niagara Historical Society Museum would appreciate hearing from anyone who can identify the people in the photograph.

letters to the editor

No protection for environment or river

Regarding the editorial Jet Boat Skirmish (Niagara Advance, March 11), Niagara Advance Editor Penny Coles is right on target in her opinion that the neighbours have but a slim hope that councillors will put the necessary restrictions on Whirlpool Jetboat Tours.

Council's historic 18-year jet boat weakness is well known. Hence, unless there is a change in council's view -or on council - the environmentally and neighbourhood damaging and potentially life-threatening (witness evidence in June 2007 of near misses to Smugglers Cove boaters and council's unwillingness to insist on a jet boat slowdown here to match across the river) operation will continue well past the visioning sessions that were set up by council to facilitate a Dock Area with the jet boat operation running full blast.

It is a shame that the strong, well-reasoned arguments and decision of Justice Joseph Quinn will not be here to help protect the dock neighbourhood, the environment, and the Niagara River.

Gracia Janes

Disappointment over shuttle

I really thought that our councillors had finally come to their senses and were using the $50,000 set aside for the transit study to expand and continue to help subsidize our excellent shuttle service. Our town is continually growing, our senior population is aging and many including some under 18 have come to depend on Niagara Classic Cabs' shuttle service, not only for their prompt service but also for the care that they take with their passengers, especially with those in wheelchairs.

My mother, confined to a wheelchair, was privileged to have used the special wheelchair accessible van and I also have used the shuttle and have nothing but the highest praise for their drivers and the service they provide. Imagine $4 whether there be one or four passengers, including someone in a wheelchair - how good could it possibly get? Apparently not good enough for our councillors.

You can imagine my disappointment when I read that the town is not willing to expand the service that the Mole brothers provide. How short-sighted is this? Instead they will subsidize each trip taken in a taxicab by $2. I began to wonder - where are all these taxis going to come from? Last I heard we only had one taxi in town and that one is usually busy. What if four seniors have four different destinations at the same time? How will seniors confined to wheelchairs manage to get to their doctor appointments etc? The care Classic Cabs drivers exhibit is far beyond the average cab driver who sits in his cab and waits for you to struggle in the back. I couldn't believe that our councillors made this decision quickly without public input even though it's the public that will suffer.

Luba Fraser

opinion

letters to the editor

1st Annual Virgil Home and Life Showcase

Virgil School's Fundraising Committee is planning a community event that will showcase local businesses while supporting the fundraising efforts of Virgil Public School. It's a win-win.

The Virgil Home and Life Showcase is an amazing one-day event. Our central location, advertising plans and active parent community ensure that we will have many visitors and a well-organized event.

So what is a Home and Life Showcase? It's a great opportunity for businesses to gain contacts within the community, distribute promotional materials, make sales and network with other local business owners. Some of the categories we have identified include but are not limited to: home renovation, home decor, gardening and landscaping, RV and recreation, vacations, home services (such as heating, air conditioning, landscaping services, cleaning services, etc.) personal services (massage, spa, beauty), wineries, home-based businesses, direct sellers, crafters, etc.

We offer a large gymnasium, with plenty of space inside and out for vendors to display their products and information. During the show, our vendors may take advantage of our stage and sound system to dazzle shoppers with wonderful presentations. Smaller businesses will be featured in our classrooms. We are also planning a barbecue lunch, bake sale and silent auction as well as a fun for kids zone.

This event will draw a big crowd with 105.7 on site.

The show is Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For further information on becoming a vendor, please contact the school office at 905-468-7793.

Hope you can join us.

Bonnie Heuving
Virgil School
Fundraising Committee

Friends working like Trojans to save NDSS

Friends of NDSS support sending town's strategy committee brief to province.

Georgina Keller & Sandra Cowan
Friends of NDSS

The Trojan army is on the move.

Many in the community have been asking what is happening with our local high school now that the Oct. 31 deadline for 350 students was not met; an unreasonable deadline that was imposed by the DSBN.

We are constantly asked whether there is anything that can be done to save our high school and whether the Friends have given up. The Friends of NDSS have not given up. We are still here and we are still fighting. During the last few months Friends have been meeting to discuss different options.

One option that is very important is the brief that was developed by the Strategy Committee, a team made up of members of the community, business people and town councillors. The brief is a well thought out document that gives countless reasons why the community of NOTL deserves secondary rural education. It outlines how the DSBN has not supported us in programming the way they have supported the urban secondary schools.

The brief also discusses the many benefits a high school has for NOTL, a long with great suggestions to continue and improve secondary education in our community. Friends fully support this brief and encourage the town to support it and have MPP Kim Craitor take it to the Minister of Education for review.

NOTL needs NDSS and now NDSS needs NOTL to support the brief. You can help make a difference. Become informed about what the brief says and contact town councillors to encourage them to vote for the brief. We need you, parents and community members, to get involved and help us to fight keep our NDSS open.

Contact Friends for information or to purchase Trojan T-shirts and buttons at www.friendsofndss.com, or contact Teresa Rive at 905-468-3489 or btrive@sympatico.ca and Joanne Hicks at 905-468-7469 or jhicks106@cogeco.ca.

This is our town and our town deserves rural community secondary education. Keep watching the Advance for news of the Town Hall meeting to vote on the brief.

Archived diary demonstrates importance of agriculture in early Niagara

Early Niagara politician advanced fiscal reform for farmers.

Archives Committee Reports
St. Mark's Church

It was discovered very early that the land around Niagara was particularly fertile and the climate conducive to growing grain and fruit.

Settlement on the west side of the river was begun specifically to raise food for the troops and the loyalists refugees who had gathered around Fort Niagara. Within just 60 years, however, concerns arose about the welfare of the farmers.

"Our laws have been made to suit the merchants instead of the producing classes," thundered William Alexander Thomson. "The agriculturalists made the country, and yet they received no assistance from the banking institutions"

Thomson was born in Wigtownshire, Scotland in October 1878. He was a railway and canal promoter, having arrived in Upper Canada in 1834. He very early became an advocate of fiscal reform, based on adequate remuneration of the people who produced the goods, such as the farmers.

As early as 1863, he expressed many of his views in a pamphlet published in Buffalo entitled An Essay on Production, Money and Government in which the Principle of a Natural law is Advanced and Explained.

A letter in the archives of St. Mark's from T. Kenard Thomson, a consulting engineer in New York, dated June 1932, indicates that his father settled in Niagara in 1866 while he had a house rebuilt that he named Glencairn. The house was built by John Hamilton and later owned by the Larkins.

In the by election of 1872, Thomson was elected to parliament as a Liberal member for Welland Riding. He was returned again in 1874 and served until his death in 1878. He is buried in the cemetery of St. Mark's Church.

Thomson's numerous speeches in the House advocated that economic development should be the primary objective of national policy. One resolution that he proposed was the development of a system of agricultural banks. His speeches appeared to the other members to be rambling and confusing. While he talked about monetary reform, he mingled this with questions of natural law, evolutionary theory and evangelical beliefs.

An article in the Journal of Canadian Studies points out that Thomson was a forerunner of the Social Credit movement that was spread by Aberhart, a party that ran the province of Alberta in the middle of the twentieth century and that eventually sent representatives to the federal legislature. Indeed whether or not the title Social Credit originated with Thomson, he used that term several times in his speeches in parliament.

In a day when the basis of farming in Niagara is being threatened, the call of Thomson for agrarian fiscal reform sounds quite contemporary. It is always refreshing when an elected member of parliament goes to battle in the House for the concerns he sees in his constituency. Although Social Credit has always been greeted with jeers about its "funny money" policy, it is interesting that this citizen of Niagara was one of the earliest proponents of such a fiscal policy.

The Thomson House in 2006.

Shaw employees strike after some locked out

Contracting out work has become the sticking point between management and union employees.

Matt Day
Niagara Advance

When people visit the Shaw Festival it's usually the stars of each show who get most of the attention, but now it's the people who work behind the scenes who have jumped out into the limelight.

Around town, on Niagara Stone Road and Queen Street, members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE) Local 461 have taken to the streets after refusing to sign a contract agreement proposed by Shaw Festival management.

The contract dealt with issues regarding salaries and the union, but it was the Festival's desire to have the ability to replace, in whole or in part, union employees with others who would work under a contract service that triggered the lockout which began March 10.

Under the deal, the Festival was going to suspend any contracting out until Dec. 31, 2011. After that deadline, they would have retained the right to hire outside workers for certain projects.

Last Wednesday, 16 facilities workers, the employees that provide maintenance, grounds crew and housekeeping services, were locked out. Following that, 150 members with the Production and Audience Services department, representing two other bargaining units, exercised their right to strike and joined the original group on the picket line the following day.

Bargaining was expected to resume today.

Local 461 president Doug Ledingham said his group of maintenance, grounds crew and housekeeping workers have been working out deals with the Shaw Festival for about two years and said being out on the line is something they didn't want to have to resort to.

"At the same time, it doesn't work for us to consider a contract which allows us to lose our jobs and be replaced by someone else," he said, adding they have agreed to everything else discussed in the contract.

See Page 9

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Shaw employees picket outside the Royal George Theatre. They are also picketing on Niagara Stone Road at the entrance to the industrial park, where the Shaw has a set-building facility, and at the Shaw Festival Theatre entrance.

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Labour action comes as Festival prepares for opening

From Page 8

"We're bewildered. This isn't about an increase in costs, this is about protecting peoples' jobs."

He said the lockout came as a "shock" to him and his members after an original lockout or strike date of Feb. 25 was avoided.

"We wish this issue could be resolved at the bargaining table," said festival executive director Colleen Blake in a release.

"To date, we have not been able to do that. Reluctantly, we have made this difficult decision."

Meanwhile the Festival continues with its plans for the April preview openings for the 49th season, with management unsure at this point how the labour action may affect upcoming performances.

The Shaw Festival is the second largest repertory theatre company in North America with an operating budget of more than $20 million.

In the 25-year association of Local 461 with the Shaw Festival, this is the first time that there has been a strike or lockout between the two.

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Community party 'a blast'

Birthday celebration was a successful fundraiser, with more than $6,000 raised to hand over to help build the new community centre.

A community birthday party for a group of friends turning 40 was a great success—the event was a blast, say organizers, and the fundraiser tripled their goal.

The life-long friends, some who have already turned 40 and others who will be turning 40 later this year, decided to make their 40th birthday celebration a fundraising event for the New Community Centre.

It was held recently at the Platoff Street Community Centre and the money raised far exceeded organizers Charlene Juras and Kathy Weier's expectations.

Pauline Shervill from the Lawn Bowling Club, which will move to the new community centre, organized a group of 16 friends to attend the celebration.

"Your birthday card, best wishes, and support were much appreciated," said Juras.

Each table was accented by a grouping of red, blue and yellow birthday balloons. Two large tree-like pillars made from balloons were additions to the birthday party décor, generously donated by Sue Rumsey of D & H Balloons, says Juras.

It was so good to see so many people dancing and having a fun time, added Weier.

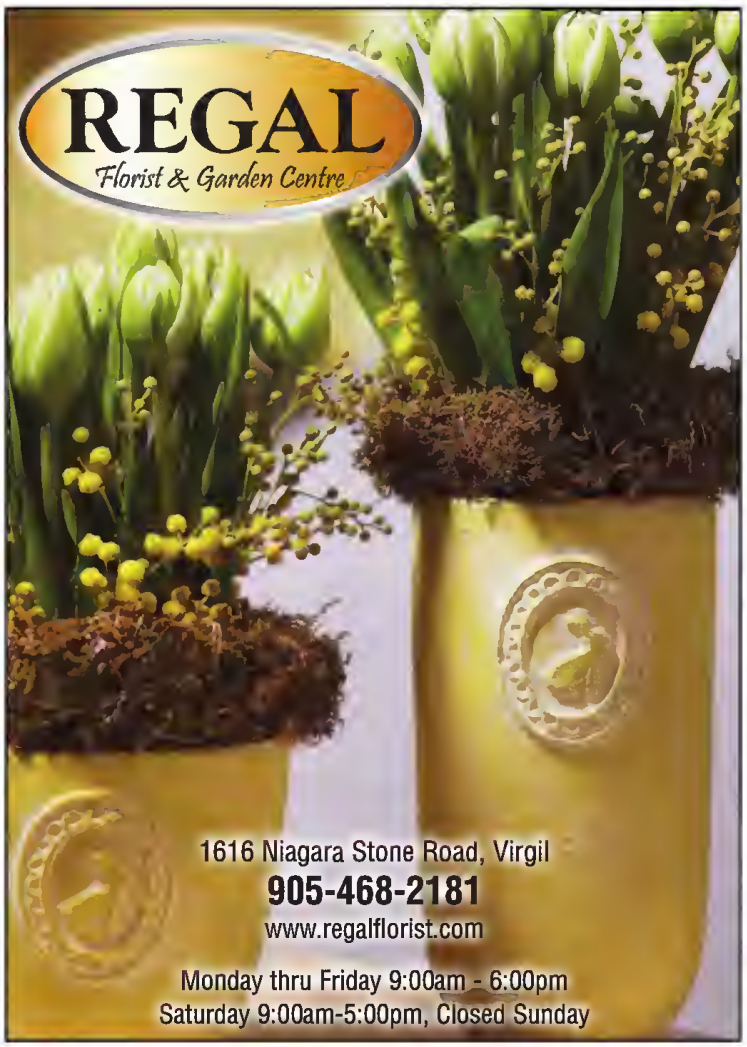
Their goal was to raise $2,000, but as a result of the number of community donations and the money raised from the party, "we are very proud to be able to hand over $6,305 to the New Community Centre Campaign," said Juras.

"We are very grateful to those who were unable to attend the party yet managed to still send their generous donations to us. One donation was even sent from Florida."

It will be great to see a donor plaque on the wall that recognizes the group's achievement, said Juras.

"The challenge now becomes finding the right words to have engraved on the plaque—words that will remind us several years down the road how great it was to have contributed to the New Community Centre by organizing our own 40th birthday party."

Friends from their school days in NOTL celebrate at a group birthday party held recently at the Playtoff Street Community Centre. The party was organized as a fundraiser for the new community centre .



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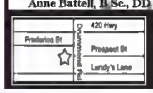

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March Break fun

Ivey Caldwell, 3, Jessie Jones, 9 and Dawson King, 5, show off their rainbows made at Winners Day Camp Monday. The camp continues this week at the Kinsmen Scout Hall with its 'over the rainbow' theme.

At the Niagara Pumphouse Visual Art Centre, Rose Tait, 8, is learning to paint animals, with a duck patiently modelling for students who are attending the daily art classes this week.

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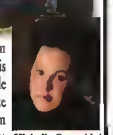

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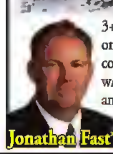

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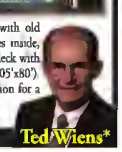

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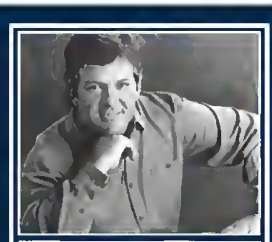

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Learn about cultural landscape with Willowbank lectures

Experts will discuss the art of landscape Saturday mornings at the historic Queenston estate.

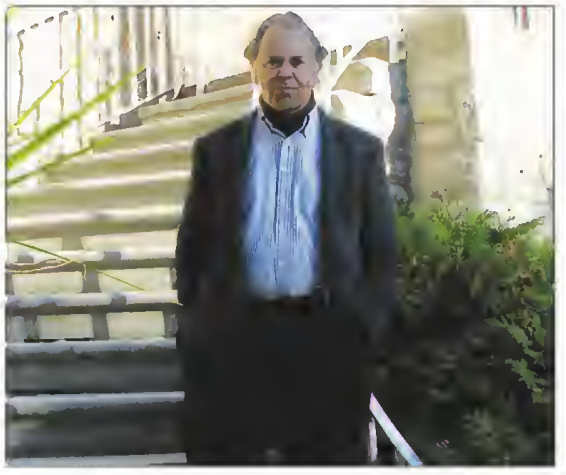
A group of celebrated speakers and performers will explore the art of landscape this spring, as Willowbank marks the return of its annual lecture series.

The series, sponsored by local residents and Willowbank supporters Elizabeth Oliver Malone and Ralph Malone, runs every second Saturday morning from tomorrow, March 20 through June 12.

When Willowbank was designated a National Historic Site, it was in part because of its landscape, says Willowbank Executive Director Julian Smith. The series allows the exploration of landscape.

"Because landscapes are such complex expressions of cultural, social and artistic intent, we have invited artists, writers, musicians, actors and actresses, as well as landscape architects and historians, to interpret and discuss the art of landscape."

The lectures take place at 10 a.m. Saturday mornings in the Bright parlour at Willowbank. There will be a formal talk, followed by coffee and refreshments, and then a more informal follow-up discussion.



Julian Smith at Willowbank

March 20: Julian Smith, architect and scholar, will introduce the topic and the series.

He has recently returned from Paris, where he worked with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre to draft a new International Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscapes.

His cultural landscape approach to heritage conservation has gained international attention through his projects and writings. He will also be joined by chamber musicians performing early 19th century music inspired by landscape, and by John Osbaldeston, well known to BBC and CBC listeners, reading poetry of the period.

April 3: Wendy Shearer, landscape architect, will speak about her experiences restoring some of the great landscapes of southern Ontario, from the 19th and 20th century.

She is known as one of Canada's foremost landscape restoration specialists, and is familiar with Willowbank and its early 19th century context as a faculty associate.

April 17: Jennifer Dickson, Order of Canada and member of the Royal Academy of Arts in England, is broadly recognized as the preeminent artist interpreting the Picturesque tradition in landscape.

Her work is in the National Gallery and other collections worldwide, and her gallery shows and presentations are always much anticipated. Her presentation will be visual, with commentary.

May 1: Linda Dicaire has been involved with historic landscapes in Canada and abroad. She was Chief Landscape Architect for the National Historic Sites program of Parks Canada.

She is currently head of Design Approvals for the National Capital Commission. She will speak about the historic landscape traditions across Canada.

May 15: Noah Richler is a writer and journalist who has explored many facets of landscape.

See Page 15

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Shaw artistic director will offer landscape reading

From Page 14

Among his projects for the BBC was a series on landscape and identity in different countries.

His book This is My Country, What's Yours? A Literary Landscape of Canada reflects his own literary tradition, including that of his father Mordecai Richler, and the present Canadian reality.

May 29: Mark Laird, landscape architect and historian, divides his time between teaching at Harvard, working out of his Toronto home, and restoring some of the great National Trust properties in the U.K.

He is one of the world's authorities on the Picturesque, and his book The Flowering of the Landscape Garden has been so influential that a major conference will be held this year in the U.K. to discuss the Laird phenomenon. He will speak about the great 18th Century landscape tradition and its legacy.

June 12: Joan Coutu is an art historian whose two special areas of interest have been the 18th century landscape garden in England and the 20th Century landscape tradition in Canada.

She has focused specifically on the Niagara Parkway and other large-scale public landscapes built during the period of Mackenzie King as Prime Minister and Thomas McQuesten as Ontario's Minister of Public Works.

She will speak about the reinterpretation of the Picturesque in the Niagara Parks Commission activities of the 1930s, and their relationship to ideas of Canadian and Ontario identity.

Early July: Jackie Maxwell is known in Canada and abroad as Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival, and acclaimed director. She has agreed to direct a play reading of Tom Stoppard's Arcadia, a provocative and complex play which uses the Picturesque landscape tradition as a sub-text and foil for Stoppard's exploration of order and chaos. The actors and actresses will be drawn from the Shaw Festival and acting community, and they will bring the play to life in a Willowbank setting. There are fascinating parallels - the historical play is set in the early 19th century, close to the time Willowbank's original landscape was created, and a key figure is Hannah Jarvis, the name of the woman who spent many years at Willowbank in the mid-19th century helping her widowed daughter Hannah Jarvis Hamilton raise her 10 children.

Admission to each session is $25, with an admission price of $20 for Friends of Willowbank. Seating is limited, so advance registration is advised. For reservations, contact Carol Perrin at 905-262-1239, ext. 21, or email willowbank@willowbank.ca.

To learn more about the lecture series or Willowbank's academic programs visit www.willowbank.ca.

Tai Chi comes to Virgil

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Canada, additional classes are being offered by the Niagara Branch of the Society at the Virgil Public School. A recent open house gave those who were interested an opportunity to learn about Tai Chi. A beginner class starts Monday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Virgil School gymnasium. For further information,call 905-935-7583 or 905-468-1223

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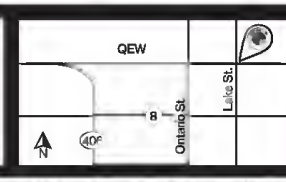

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Spring is coming, gardeners are dreaming

You can't miss the signs of spring appearing daily.

Jean Cochrane
Happy Gardening

Saturday is the first day of spring, and even though we know there will be wet and windy days to come, and nature usually has a sting in its tail, the gardeners are dreaming. The garden centres are open or will be soon, so why not go in for a wander and sniff the air—it is as good as a tonic—and treat yourself to something irresistible.

I have a miniature daffodil and a primrose on my desk and while out walking we spotted these snowdrops. It made me remember when we were out walking in Switzerland one April. We were rather high up on the mountain and had had some really warm days and we came across what we thought was a bank of snow, but on closer look it was not snow but thousands of white crocuses packed so close you could not see the green leaves. Nature is incredible.

I lifted off some of the leaf mulch on one of our front beds today and there they were, green shoots peeping through. I covered them up again, but it feels so good knowing they are there.

Have you noticed the colours in the orchards? Some have the colour of red wine and some rather orange - the sap is in the branches and the work is beginning and of course the willows are glowing yellow, all signs of spring.

So you can start by getting the slug and snail bait down before they start eating your hostas. The birds around the feeders are changing, the Cardinals are piping loudly, the robins singing and I noticed the crows are interested in the tallest of our pine trees again. Last year they built a nest there and I learned that crows communicate in another way too. I was puttering round the garden and wondered what the clicking noise was - it turned out to be the crows. They click their beaks at one another - could be morse code?

See Page 17

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Time to get tools, including back and legs, in shape for outside work

From Page 16

For those of you who just can't wait to get started you can try the old way by sewing your seeds in containers , place them on trays and place them on top of your refrigerator - just do not be like me and forget to water them.

You can start to pot up your canas and dahlias, provided you have the space to keep them inside until all danger of frost is past.

So check the tools and if necessary get them sharpened and oiled. Of course get yourself doing some exercises to help your back and legs, because if the gardener is laid up then nothing gets done.

The snow drops are peaking through.

The next Horticultural Society meeting is on Tuesday, March 23 at the Community Centre.

The program is being presented by Lorraine Mennen of Pathways to Perennials and her subjects cover eco - gardening, stunning shade collections and more. I am assured that her wealth of accumulated garden knowledge will astound you. The coffee is on for 6.30 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7p.m., so do come and join us. New members are always welcome.

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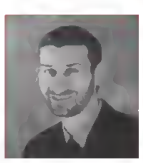

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Message by: Joachim Dau
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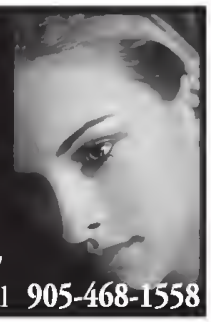

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11829975

General Employment A800

KITCHEN help, day & evening shifts. No Sundays. Apply in person, Italian Pizza & Subs, Virgil, 468-1200.
11849948

Employment Wanted A850

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Experienced Gerdener Naad halp with your gardaning? Planting, wataring, cultivating, waading, daad haading and general garden maintenance? This retired NOTL man may be able to help. Reasonable rates. . Call 905-228-0367.
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11236594

Community Services

Coming Events A940

HUGH MOM2MOM SALE & Parenting/Family Expo, Sat. Mar 27th, 9a.m.-2p.m. Niagara Calabration Church, St. Catharines. www.niagaramommy andme.ca
11832645

HUGH MOM2MOM SALE & Parenting/Family Expo, Sat. Mar 27th, 9a.m.-2p.m. Niagara Celebration Church, St. Catharines. www.niagaramommy andme.ca
11832691

FISH FRY
Thursdays 4:30-7:30pm
Royal Canadian Legion Br #124
410 King St.
All Welcome!

NIAGARA WOOD Carvers 31st Show. Optimist Park, Niagara Falls Ont. Sat, March 27th 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Admission $3, childran 12 & undar free. Contact Warran (905)354-8854.
11853349

Health & Wellness A946

NEW AD

PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE, $40./30 Min. 10:00 a.m. - 10 p.m. Open 7 days a week. Call 905 356 8918
11855410

Coming Events A940
Eventa

MAR. 18, 7:30pm. Taverns and Village Public Life, a lecture by Dr. Julia Roberts. Niagara Historical Society Museum. 43 Castlereagh Street. $5 or free for Society Members. 905-468-3912.

TAOIST TAI CHI SOCIETY 12 week Beginner Class starts Monday March 22nd. 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Virgil Public School. 905-935-7583 www.taoist.org/niagara.

MAR. 23, Tuea. 2:30pm & MAR. 24, Wed. 6:30pm. Movies @ Your Library. Come see Sandra Bullock in the film that won her the Oscar for Best Actress, $2/person. Please sign up in advance 905-468-2023.

Mar. 23 - Apr. 27, Tuesdays, 10:30-11:00 am. **BABIES & BOOKS:** ages 4 - 18 mos. share stories, songs, tickles and bounces with your baby.
Mar. 24 - Apr. 28, Wednesdays 10:30-11:00 am. **TODDLER TALES:** 2 & 3 yr olds. An interactive program for children to share with their caregivers while enjoying stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts.
Mar. 24 - Apr. 28, Wednesdays, 2:00-2:30 pm. **STORY TIME:** 4 to 8 yr olds. Each week children will take part in games, crafts, songs and stories in this full 1/2 hr program.
April 8, Thursday, 6:45-7:30 pm. **BEDTIME BOOKS:** All ages. You are invited to the Library for an evening of stories, songs and a bedtime snack. Don't forget to wear your pajamas!

All programs **require pre-registration** and are free. Please call the Library 905-468-2023 for more information.

Coming Events A940
Events

MAR. 25, 7:00pm. Philosopher's Cafe: A no holds barred discussion on the big question: Is there a God? Free. Everyone Welcome!

Coming Events A940
Eventa

MAR. 25, 7:30pm. Friends of Fort George Annual General Meeting, Navy Hall. Speaker - Barb Leskovec, Archaeologist, Parks Canada: "Finding" Fort George's Past. For info: 905-468-6621 or e-mail ffg@computan.on.ca.

Coming Events A940
Events

MARCH 27, Saturday, 10:30-11-00 am. PLEASANT MANOR - Bazaar, Bake Sale, Crafts, Tea Room 15 Elden Street, Virgil.

Coming Events A940
Events

APRIL 24, Sat. 9 am - 4 pm. Virgil Home and Life Showcase. 105.7 Radio Advertising on-site. Businesses/Vendors wanted. Please call Virgil School 905-468-7793.

Coming Events A940
Eventa

MAY 14, 15 & 16 - G.H.O.S.T.S. - A Paranormal Conference & Trade Show. Parkway Convention Centre, 327 Ont. St., St. Catharines. Welcome dinner. Meet & Greet Celebrity pizza party, lectures, Ghost Hunt - Ft. Mississauga, Ghost Tour - Ft. George, Seance -The Prince of Wales Hotel. marlee_ghosts@yahoo.ca. www.ghostsconference.com.

Antiques & Collectibles A100

LAKESHORE ANTIQUES & TREASURES
855 Lakeshore Rd.
Multidealer Co-op
Open daily 10am-5pm
situated halfway between NOTL & Welland Canal
905-646-1965

Auctions A120

LUKE BUYS
Antiques and Collectibles plus other household items. We do not try to talk you out of your good antiques and leave you stuck with the rest. We buy it all. No deal too big or too small.
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Clothing A140

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Storage/ Parking A680

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Pet Services A350

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Livestock/ Poultry A380

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Naturally raised Scottish Highland beef
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Call Kim 905-468-5603.

General Employment A800

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We are hiring for:
Winery Boutique
Tour & Tastings
Guest Relations
Winery Restaurant Dining Service
Winery Restaurant Kitchen

Join us for **Winery Recruitment Day** at Peller Estates on March 27 & 28 from 1 pm to 4 pm.

Bring your resume and be prepared to spend some time with our team leaders.

Peller Estates – 290 John St. E. Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Call 1.888.673.5537 ext. 2 for more information.

Person to Person A956

LOOKING FOR witnassas to an accident that occurrad at Town and Country Plaza and Keith st on Tuesday March 9 at 11 am. Call 905-374-4530 or 905-688-4111 NF Detachment x 2200
11854400

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11238587

Garage Sales G100

Something for everyone

MOVING SALE! Saturday March 27th & 28th. 11 Garrison Village Drive. Call 905-468-3650 for more info.
11850901

WOW! Going Going **GONE!** Classified Extra works! Find out for yourself at 1-866-541-6757
11239624

Coming Events A940

ULYSSEAN MEETING
Wednesday, March 24, 7:30pm
at Upper Canada Lodge Meeting Room ~ Guests Welcome
"Ulyssean Roots In Niagara"
A round table presentation from 6 early members about the history of the Society over the last 25 years.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE CONSERVANCY

ON-THE-LAKE NIAGARA CONSERVANCY

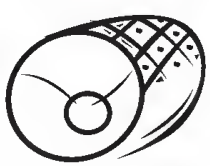
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY APRIL 11TH
at 2:00 P.M.
at WILLOWBANK
with SPEAKER , JULIAN SMITH
(and reports from the Harmony Group and the Queenston Residents Association)

Niagara-on-the-Lake Horticultural Society Meeting
Tuesday, March 23rd
Eco Gardening - Stunning Shade Collections
Low Maintenance shade collections to promote a healthy bio-diversity
by Lorraine Mennen (International garden speaker), from Pathways to Perennials Inc.
A must-see presentation for anyone interested in eco-gardening!
Place: Community Center, 29 Platoff Street
Time: 6:30 Refreshments / Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
2010 Annual Membership January - December
Individual: $10.00 **Business:** $20.00
Students: *(over18)* $5.00 **Visitors:** $5.00
notlhortsociety@gmail.com • 905-468-2325 • www.notlhortsociety.com

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #124
410 KIng St. Niagara-on-the-Lake

GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, March 24th - 7:00pm
Notice of Motion to Adopt
New House Rules

EASTER HAM ROLL
Saturday, March 27
4:00 pm



Birthday greetings

Happy 13th Birthday
Gareth!
Love your Family

11856592

Engagements

stag&doe

We are very proud to congratulate

JACLYN LAKEIT
and
ERIC NEUFELD
on their recent
ENGAGEMENT

stag&doe

August 27th

TO BE WED

October 16th

Wishing them both a lifetime of happiness and prosperity!
The Lakeit and Neufeld families.

11854799

Thank You Cards

"THANK YOU & GOOD BYE"

After meeting a handsome young man from Niagara and being married in April 1951 - I left my hometown of Kingston and moved to N.O.T.L. I have lived here nearly 60 years and have watched the town grow to what it is today. I had 6 children most of whom were born in Niagara and had the good fortune to send them to the two best schools there are - Parliament Oak and NDSS. We lived in the centre of town where in a two block area there were at least 40 children. They went to school together, played together and never once was there a disagreement between parents. I belonged to a very large group of cribbage players, the Ladies Aux Legion 124 and the place I like to think of as my second home; the Senior Citizen Centre. Though I am not moving that far away, I will surely miss the town I have called home for most of my life. For all the folks who have made me a part of this town I thank you.

Many Thanks
Rita Krahn

11850906

Deaths

BIEGA, Mary - At the N.H.S. General Site on Wednesday March 10, 2010 in her 87th year. Beloved wife of the late John Biega. Dear mother of Sophie Martens, Joseph (Joan) Biega, Ed (Dolores) Biega, Richard (Bev) Biega, Mike Biega and Paul (Barbara) Biega. Dear grandma of 15 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her granddaughter Tricia Biega. Mary was a member of Calvary Church for over 30 years. Interment took place at Victoria Lawn Cemetery on Saturday March 13th and a Service of Remembrance was held at Calvary Church. The family would like to thank Pleasant Manor staff for the wonderful, loving care she received while a resident there, which made her stay so enjoyable. As expressions of sympathy donations to Russian Ministries or the Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family. On-line condolences at www.butlerniagara.ca. Butler 905-646-6322
11856437

PREVOST, Victor Azerius - Suddenly passed away February 20, 2010 at home surrounded by his family and loved ones. Beloved husband to Evelyn. Vic is fondly remembered for his "mud juice" and generous spirit. He will continue to be a Superintendent in Heaven. The family would like to thank the paramedics and fire fighters. A special thank you to Al and Sharon Anderson and the Loretta Drive family[].
11857170

Deaths

KNOX, Edna – with sadness, area resident Edna Knox has died. Married to husband Stu for 72 years. She lived a unique life. Edna was mother to Grant, Lewis and Jackie and proud of being a great-grandmother. She will be sadly missed by her grandchildren David, Susan, Kerri, Chris and Kelly, as well as her great-grandchildren Sarah, William, Katelyn, Emily, Madeline, Holly, Sasha and Erika. Most of her life she was blessed with good health but, the last few years tried her spirit. She was not a joiner but relished to know what was happening with her family and in the Niagara Queenston Community. Her idea of a perfect day was a walk about in the yard at Kent Street, completion of the papers crossword puzzle and chats with neighbourhood friends. You know who you are and her children and her husband Stu will always be grateful for your kindness. She is gone, we treasure her memories and smile because she has lived. The visitation and service were held at MORGAN FUNERAL HOME, 415 Regent Street. Cremation followed. Online guest register: www.morganfuneral.com

A Memorial Donation has been made to
Morgan Funeral Homes Community Fund

11856050

WARKENTIN, Mary - On Monday March 15, 2010 at Pleasant Manor in her 86th year. She was predeceased by her husband George Warkentin (2001) and daughter-in-law Hilda Warkentin (2009). Mother of Alfred Warkentin, Trudy and Art Hildebrand, George Warkentin and Elvira and John Goerz. Grandmother of 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Sister of Henry & Erna Hubert and Gertrude Klassen and sister-in-law of Mary Hildebrand. The family will receive friends at the Comerstone Community Church 1570 Niagara Stone Road, Virgil on Sunday, March 21st from 2-5 pm. Funeral Service will be at the Church on Monday at 10 am with interment following at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery. If desired, memorial donations to Pleasant Manor or M.C.C. would be appreciated by the family. Online condolences at: www.tallmanfuneralhomes.ca.

11857507

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Mar. 26, Fri., 7:30pm, Euchre Party with Virgil Women's Institute, Virgil Arena, $3.50 includes dessert. All Welcome!
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Professional Services

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Read it in the classifieds 11238602

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FACIALS, Manicures, gel nails, pedicures, reducing and relaxation massage, tinting, waxing, very reasonable rates. For appointment call 905-468-0101 or 905-468-1372. 11855691

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CARPETS- I have several thousand yards of new Stainmaster and 100% nylon carpet. will do living and dining room for $389. Price includes carpet, pad and installation (30 sq.yds) Steve (905)682-5320. 11835925

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Landscaping Snow Removal S230

SPRING IS ALMOST HERE! Book your yard clean-up now. The **Extraordinary Gardener** 35 yrs exp. 468-1431 11854496

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TREE REMOVAL and pruning. Competitive prices. Fully insured. John, (905)934-3602. 11851829

Home Improvement

Cleaning Services S160

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Dr. Kimberley Hill-Johnston
~ New Patients Welcome ~
NEW EXTENDED HOURS
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Tuesday 7:30am - 6:00pm
Wednesday 7:30am - 6:00pm
Thursday 7:30am - 7:00pm
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12" PIZZA Pepperoni or Cheese + 13 WINGS Selected Varieties + 2 LITRE COKE
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SAVE OVER $8.00 OFF OUR REGULAR PRICES

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101 Lakeshore Rd., St. Catharines
Prices Effective March 19th to March 25th, 2010

Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY | Canada

225 Ricardo Street, Suite 303, NOTL

King`s Point waterfront condominium unit. 1br with den/second br. One owned parking space & locker. Penthouse level w/view of the Niagara River. Amenities include fitness room, guest suite & inground pool. $435,000 call Glenn Brazeau, Sales Representative 905-321-9075.

14647 Niagara Parkway NOTL

Recently renovated with spectacular river vistas, this unique home on 1/2 acre maximizes the water view with living space on the 2nd level accessed by the circular staircase or elevator, large balcony w/awning over the dbl garage for summer gatherings and large rear yard. Call Glenn Brazeau, Sales Representative 905-321-9075 to arrange a private viewing. $1,195,000.

A Home In The Country

Beautiful Custom 4 bedroom home on 2 acres, overlooking vineyards and country side. Master BR on the main Level, Large Kitchen, Lr & Dr. Ideal for Family living. Close to old town NOTL plus easy access to QE. $495,000 Call Glenn Brazeau 905-321-9075 or Phyllis Henderson, Sales Representative 905-932-2589.

1656 Creek Road

HOME and BUSINESS!

Renovated main house-main floor master/ensuite, hdwd floors, newer kitchen/appliances and 2 bdrms, new bath upstairs. Other dwelling has multiple uses. Small garage/workshop has power. Home is wired for cable, internet, security, phones, etc. Needs windows but terrific setting for the right person, possible in-law set-up: vendor is motivated too! Contact Gary Snider at 905-988-2205. Asking $339,000.

Parkway Winery Site

22 Acres Winery site with Site Plan Approval. Tile Drained, endless water, 3 phase hydro all with direct access on the Niagara Parkway. The first winery location linking Niagara Falls and NOTL. Site Plan includes 45 ft signature tower, retail, production, bus parking and Tuscan Inspired B&B. Contact Liesa Lepp 905-658-1828 or Alex Falovo 905-650-0264.

3127 King Street, Jordan

Spectacular 23 acre estate building lot located in the heart of the Jordan Valley. This one of kind property offers clearings of rolling hills surrounded by private forests & trails. Watch the salmon run up Twenty Mile Creek & the deer roam outside your door. The property currently has 4 homes & offers a variety of residential uses including 2 estate homes with separate drives. Truly one of a kind property that must be seen to be appreciated. Contact Alex Falovo, Sales Representative, 905-650-0264 to arrange a private tour. Offered at $1,350,000.

Glenn Brazeau Sales Representative
Nancy Bailey Brazeau Business Manager
Sarah Jackson Administrative Assistant
Alex Falovo Sales Representative
Phyllis Henderson Sales Representative
Liesa Lepp Sales Representative
Gary Snider Broker

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Doug Rempel

Anna & Jaime da Silva

Jennifer Hayes

Stefan Regier

Lolita Hale

Sales Representative* Broker** Broker of Record***

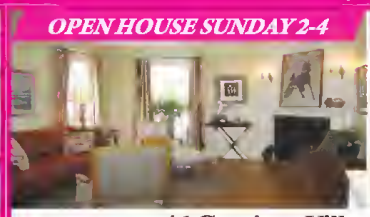
OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4

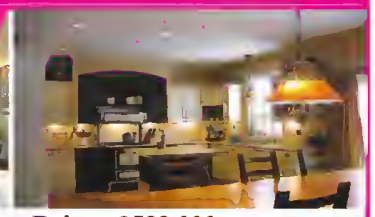
1652 Four Mile Creek #117 - $329,000

The Enns Estate is located half a block from the centre of Virgil, and only 7 km to the Old Town. Here, master builder Borge Jensen used energy efficient Thermapan structural insulated panels with an estimated savings of up to 55% in this former model bome whicb is now offered ***for sale at a savings of $54,000***. Walkout from the great room to the covered deck, one step down to the garden. You'll find elegant bardwood floors throughout, dark stained cabinetry and so mucb more!

Doug Rempel*

OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY 2-4





46 Garrison Village Drive - $533,000

Located in Niagara-on-the-Lake's trendy development known as "The Village", this wonderful 4 bedroom, 3 ½ bath family friendly bome was built to exacting standards by Brook-Lite Homes, enhanced and upgraded by the current owners, is fully finisbed on all levels, is set on the largest - pool size lot in the sub-division. By comparison, this very special bome, a Colonial classic, offers exceptional value and is certain to please the most discriminating buyer. ***For more information go to www.46Garrison.info.***

Doug Rempel*

St. Catharines

2 Laurie Street - $264,900

Excellent value! This 1,800 sq. ft. 3 bdrm, 2 bath home is perfect for the growing family & conveniently located. The handy kitchen, open dining area & living room are perfect for family functions. Nicely finished lower level offering extra privacy.

Stefan Regier*

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840 Concession 2 Road - $649,000

Over 2100 sq. ft. in this custom built rancb bungalow with attacbed double+ garage & sun rm plus 4 out buildings on over an acre. Spacious front entrance leads to the formal living & dining rms, the kitchen and a staircase to the fully finished lower level. This home boasts 3+2 bdrms & 4.5 baths.

Jennifer Hayes**

OPEN HOUSE EVERY SUNDAY 2-4

678 Line 2 Road - Lambert's Walk - Starting from $179,900

Cboose quality selections of cabinetry, flooring & paint. Elevator service & locker. In-suite laundry. Our condominium complex offers a carefree lifestyle! Walk to local restaurants, banks & grocery store. Come see what the residents are excited about!

The TOWNHOMES are coming!!

Lambert's Walk will be building bungalow townhomes this summer. Watch for details in upcoming weeks!

Lolita Hale*

23 Bianca Drive - $379,900

JUST LISTED!! Magnificent 4 bedroom, 2 storey bome in the beart of Virgil. Stunning master suite with two walk-in closets, ensuite bath with soaker whirlpool tub and vaulted ceiling. Great room with bardwood flooring and a gas fireplace. Eat-in kitchen with ample maple cupboards and a trendy tile backsplash. Entertaining size dining room, 2.5 baths, finisbed basement with additional family room and a fenced yard too. Only 5 minutes to Old Town and the beart of wine country.

Lolita Hale*

Estate Building Lot - $399,000

Mature trees and lusb vegetation have kept this spectacular 17.87 acre property hidden away. Limited access will ensure the new owner's privacy. If you are looking for a place to build your dream bome, this special property may be the one!

Doug Rempel*

OPEN HOUSE SAT & SUN 1-4

6334 DeSanka Avenue - Niagara Falls - From $259,900

(Off Kalar & Forestview between Lundy's Lane and McLeod Rd)

EMPTY NESTERS! HERE IT IS! - Choose your style and finishes. Affordable pricing and excellent locations available. This Award Winning project has fabulous appeal. Gracious water park entrance, double car garages, 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths. 1366 sq. ft., private decks, concrete driveways and best of all no more grass to cut and no more snow to sbovel. ***For more information go to www.6334DeSanka.info.***

Anna da Silva* and Jaime da Silva*

Prime Agricultural Land

Concession 5 & Line 8 Road

Two adjoining parcels located at the foot of the "Bencb" with some of the highest beat units allowing for a longer growing season. Lands are suitable for tender fruit orcbard, vineyard, or other crops. Extensive soil analysis confirms very high organic matter.

Part 1 - 60 Acres $550,000
Part 2 - 40 Acres $450,000

Doug Rempel*